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January 21, 2005

Governor Phil Bredesen
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-0001

Tennessee Regulatory Authority
Pat Miller, Chairperson
460 James Robertson Pkwy
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

Dear Governor Bredesen:
Chairperson Miller:

I, the undersigned, am a family member of an individual held in the custody of the Tennessee Department of Correction. It is my understanding that the Tennessee Department of Corrections, has requested a rate increase for local and long-distance phone calls made by prisoners to family members and friends.

It is also my understanding that the Tennessee Legislature, after a comprehensive study by the Tennessee Dept. of Correction's Research and Planning Division, TN, (Joint Senate Resolution 319, and the Family Visitation and Crime Reduction Act, T.C.A. 41-21-243), have found that maintaining family ties is an important factor in reducing recidivism and in helping prisoners to make a successful return to society.

Since we, the family members, have no choice in the companies used to provide telephone services for calls from our loved ones in prison, and the ever increasing phone rates are imposing an enormous financial strain on family members, I respectfully urge you, and the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to deny the Tennessee Department of Correction's request for a rate increase in phone services provided Tennessee's prison population and family members of prisoners. We thank you for your consideration and assistance

Respectfully,

Robert Jackson
709 Pardee St.
Johnson City, TN. 37601

Address / City/County / Zip Code